How to Give a Talk

Gilbert Chu

8 Commandments

1. Don’t talk with nothing to say
2. Don’t talk without preparation
3. Don’t use fancy backgrounds
4. Don’t show too many slides
5. Don’t stuff slides with lots of stuff
6. Don’t show muddy messages
7. Don’t talk to the screen
8. Don’t use obscure abbreviations

1. Don’t talk with nothing to say

- Provide a take home message
- Help listeners with sign posts

2. Don’t talk without preparation

- Rehearse ahead of time
- Show up early to test the system
- Use PDF slides for on-site computers

3. Don’t use fancy backgrounds

Fuggetaboutit

4. Don't show too many slides

Everyone hates a time hog

2 minutes per slide
NOT
0.2 seconds

Afraid to delete a slide?

Hide it behind your "final" slide

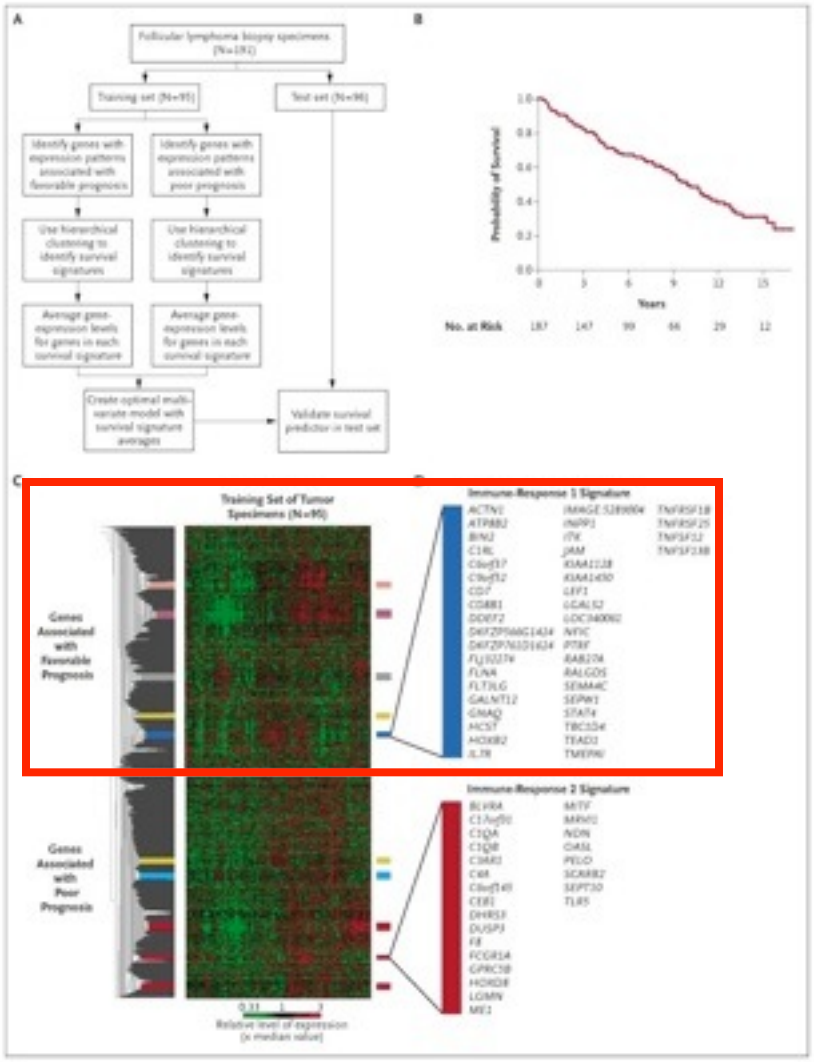
4. Don’t show too many slides

Ernest Hemingway
Death in the Afternoon

“If a writer of prose knows enough about what he is writing about he may omit things that he knows and the reader, if the writer is writing truly enough, will have a feeling of those things as strongly as though the writer had stated them. The dignity of movement of an iceberg is due to only one-eighth of it being above water.”

5. Don’t stuff slides with lots of stuff

Brains sleep when overwhelmed



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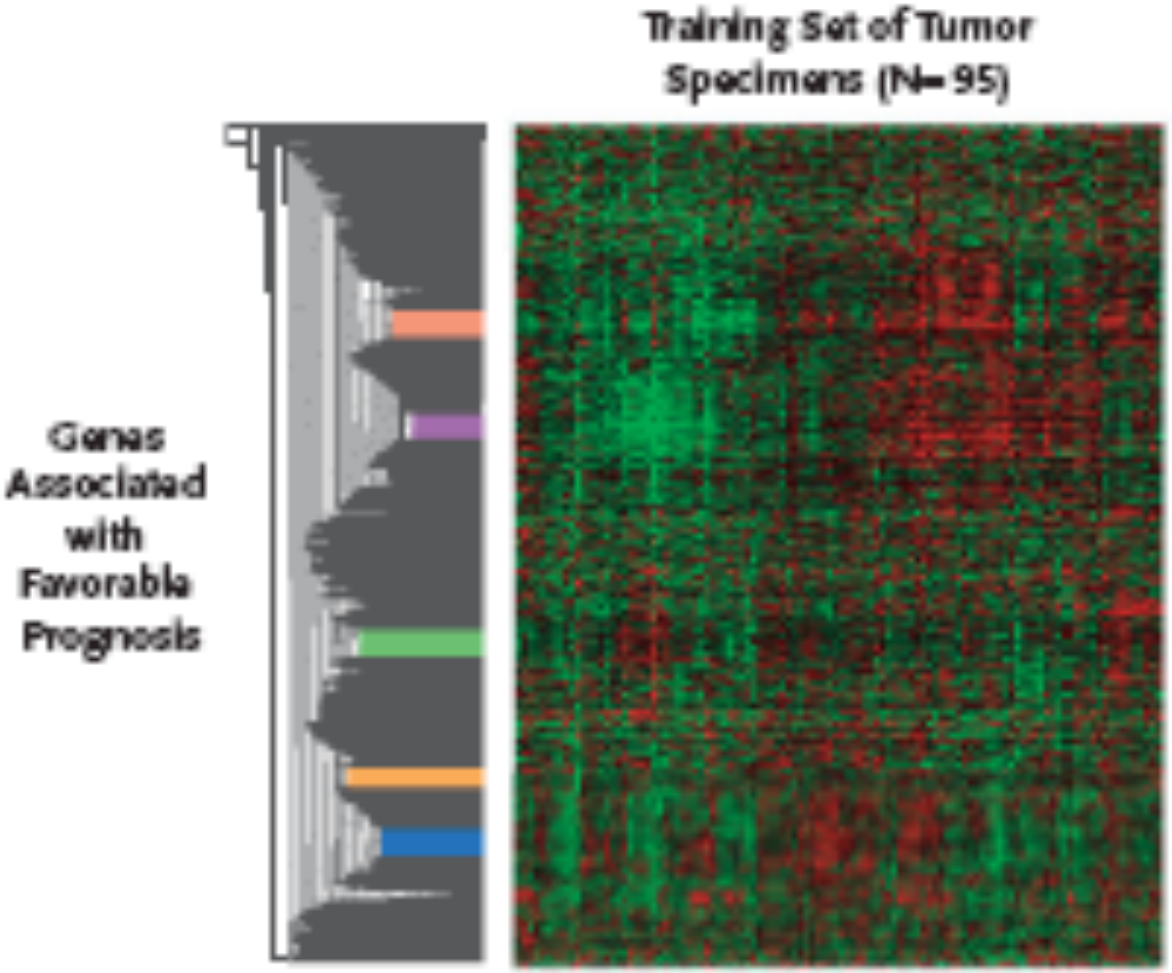

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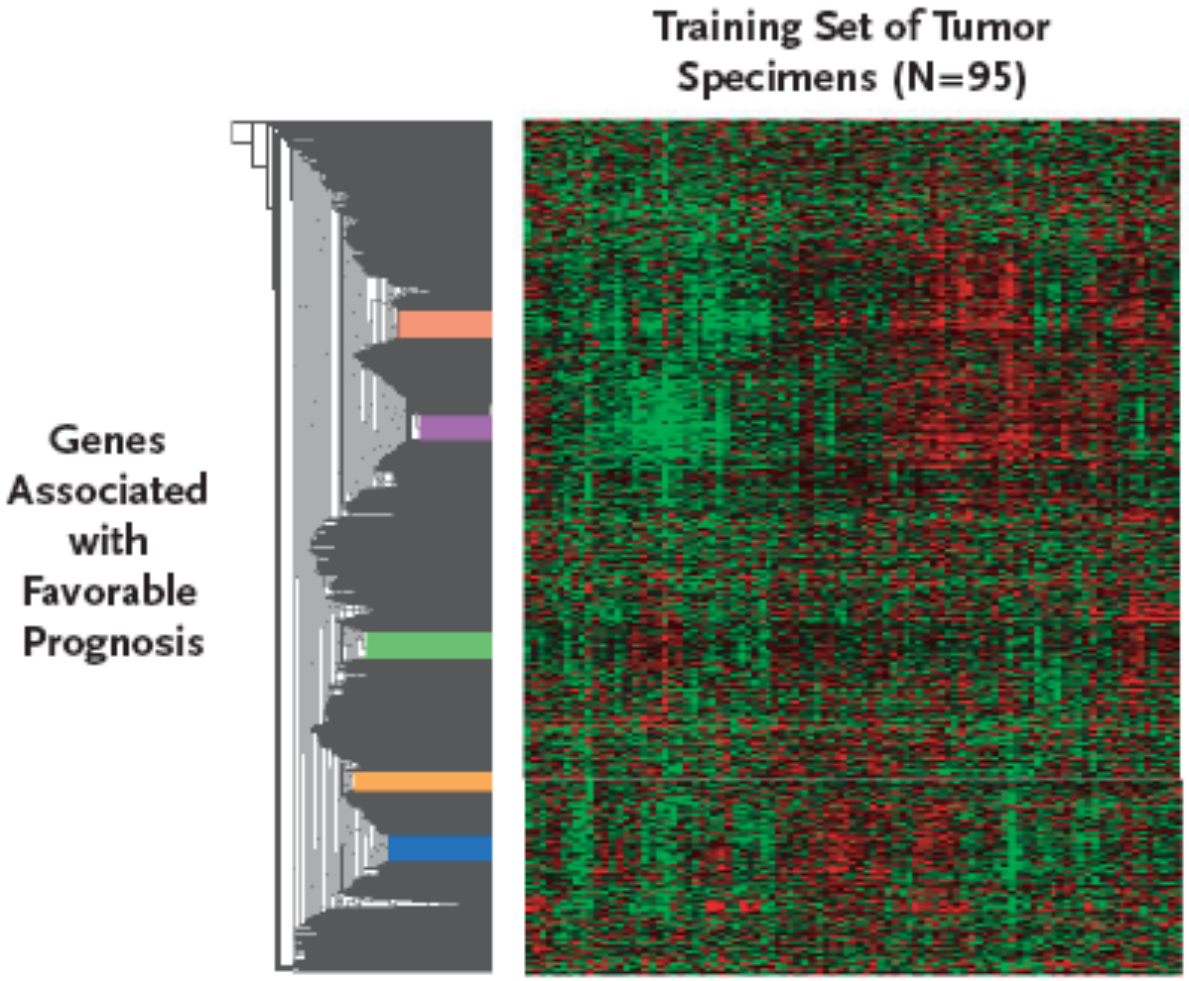
LARGE screenshot of the PDF



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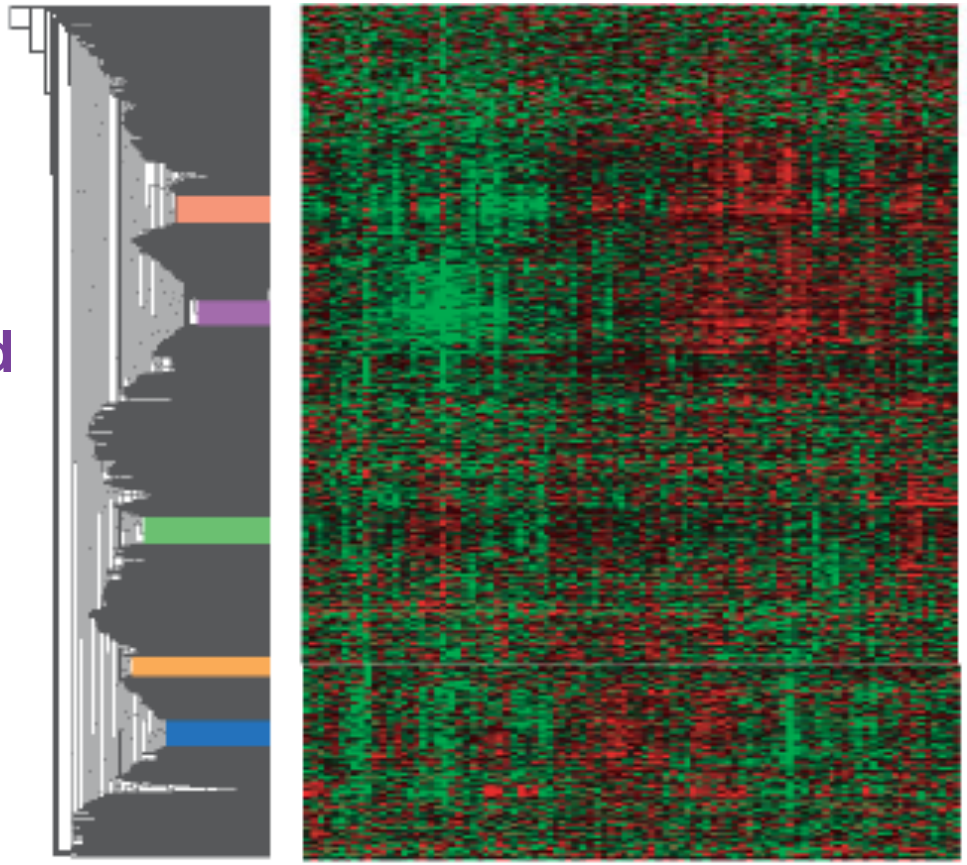
Add legible labels

Training Set of 95 Tumors

Genes Associated with Favorable Prognosis



6. Don’t show muddy messages

Put the take-home message on top

Apollo

- Mutant cells derived from patients with defects in signaling are rescued by Apollo cDNA
- Antibody vs Apollo precipitates Daphne
- Antibody vs Daphne precipitates Apollo
- Homologous to Daphne

Blue (bad) ⇨ Green (good)

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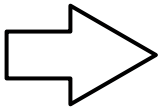
Blue (bad)  Green (good)

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Avoid passive sentences

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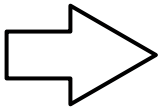
Blue (bad)  Green (good)

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Eliminate extra information

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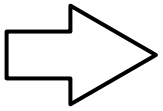
Blue (bad)  Green (good)

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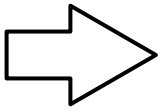
Blue (bad)  Green (good)

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Construct each item in the same way

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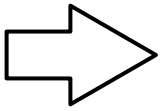
Blue (bad)  Green (good)

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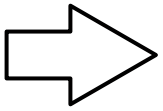
- Shares homology with Daphne

Blue (bad)  Green (good)

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Show a picture worth a thousand words

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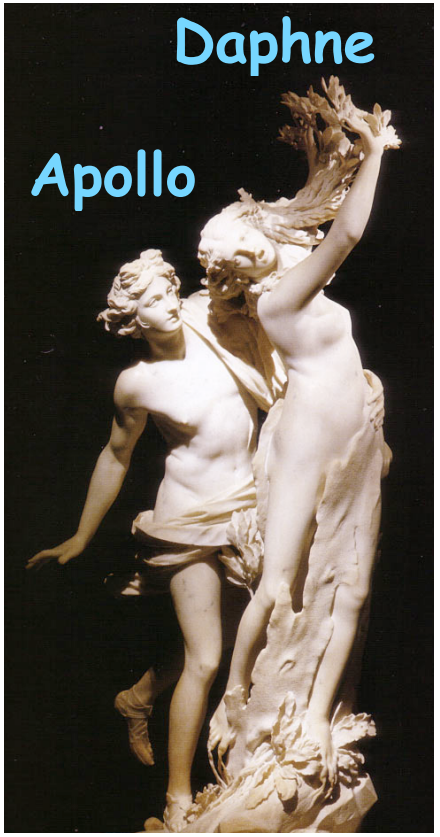

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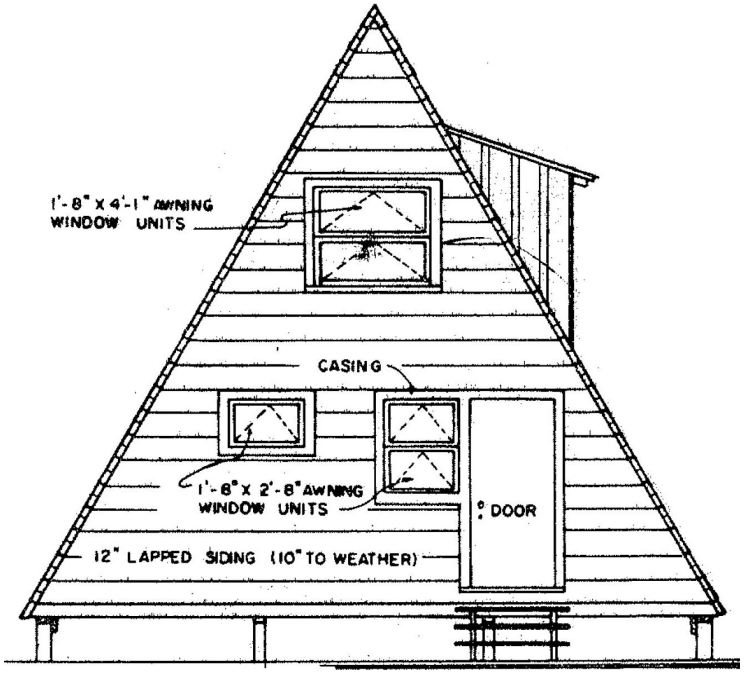
7. Don’t talk to the screen

The rhetorical triangle

speaker



audience message

8. Don’t use obscure abbreviations

The Golden Rule

Talk to others as you wish they would to you

What do you wish for?

The Golden Rule

Talk to others as you wish they would to you

- Recognize collaborators and competitors
- Teach everyone something new
- Share stories of your journey to discovery
- Use humor to keep them engaged
- Talk clearly for non-native English speakers

Dad, did you hide a slide?

Break out of slide prison

Use active learning

Hit the B or W key